

Norah Stoner Report

Group continues dump protest

By NORAH STONER
Regional Councillor
Town of Pickering

On Thursday, Feb. 20, the mayor, two town staff members and myself met with the Honourable James Bradley, Minister of the Environment for Ontario.

The discussions included the Ministry of Labor report on gases found at the Brock West Landfill Site, the \$4.5 million gas collection system being installed at the dump by Metro Toronto; the impact of the odors on the surrounding neighborhoods; the potential for health problems; and the possibility of the Minister revoking the certificates of approval on the two Metro sites in Pickering.

The costs of Metro's methane gas collection system has escalated to \$4.5 million. The first incinerator has been installed and will be fully operational by the end of March. This is the first of five due to be functioning by the end of 1986. The Ministry of the Environment will be testing the gas burning system for dioxine, PCB's, or any other airborne pollutants. The project is being phased in gradually to allow for this testing, because it is experimental.

In January we received a report done for the Ministry of the Environment by the Ministry of Labor. The report listed some 70 gases that were found at the Brock West Landfill. Although the

levels of the gases were "acceptable," the report stated that many of the gases had health effects, that they had not classified all the gases, that three were potentially cancer causing, that some individuals in the community could be more affected than the "typical human," and that they really did not know what the impact of these gases working together was.

Pickering Council swiftly and unanimously endorsed my resolution to the Minister of the Environment requesting that he revoke the operating certificate of the dump, or ensure that Metro comply with the Environmental Protection Act. We also restated our need to meet with the Minister himself to discuss the problems.

During our lengthy meeting, the Ministry stated that it is not prepared to shut the Brock West site at this time, but that if at the end of 1986 the gas collection system was not eliminating the odor problem, it would consider revoking the permit or granting a new Environmental Hearing. We requested that the Brock North's certificate should be revoked on the grounds that it was turned down totally as a suitable site by the Environmental Hearing Board and then partly approved on appeal. The part that was approved has been shown to be a very poor site with serious leachate problems.

The Ministry did not agree to close the site immediately but stated they would consider granting a new hearing if Metro proposed re-opening it or suggested new technological methods to be used on the site.

There was discussion of the need to reduce the volume of Metro's waste by recycling. The Minister acknowledged that so long as Metro could dump on its neighbors, they had little or no incentive to recycle.

Concern has been expressed by some about what would happen to the Town of Pickering's own garbage if the Metro site was closed. This is not a major problem because the Region of Durham must provide us with space in their landfill sites located in other adjacent towns. We are definitely not without alternative Durham sites in which to put our own garbage.

While on the subject of our own wastes, we should be setting an example to Metro by recycling as much as possible ourselves. Newspaper is picked up on garbage day—be sure to put it on the curb separate from the actual garbage.

The Durham Region Resolution to co-operate with Metro Toronto on the creation of another Metro landfill site in Pickering has resulted in some negotiations taking place. The Town has asked for a written update from the Regional

Commissioner of Works.
The next General Meeting of the "Dump Metro" Committee will

take place tonight (March 12) at 8 p.m. in the Pickering Council Chambers. A complete update of recent activities and possibilities for future action are on the agenda. Be sure to attend.



Icy winter weather creates scenic settings but it also plays havoc with area traffic

The countryside around Stouffville and Uxbridge has been transformed into an icy winter wonderland in recent days. While the unpredictable climate has created many picturesque settings, it has also resulted in treacherous conditions for motorists. Tuesday morning's ice storm turned many area roads into skating rinks, resulting in a rash of traffic mishaps.

—Chris Shanahan

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